



Land for Maine's Future Program

Minutes of the Meeting

January 17, 2006

Pine Tree State Arboretum
Augusta, Maine

Board Members Present:

Commissioner George Lapointe
Commissioner P. McGowan
Act. Commissioner Ned Porter

Carole Dyer
Warren Balgooyen
Commissioner D. Martin

Leon Gorman

Board Members Absent:

Marcia McKeague
[one vacancy]

Jeff Thaler

Martha Freeman

LMF Staff Members Present:

Tim Glidden
Jim Connors

Steve Brooke
R. Collin Therrien

Aline Lachance

Others

Senator Richard A. Nass
Jeff Romano, Maine Coast Heritage Trust
Terry N. Towne, Maine Coast Heritage Trust
Wolfe Tone, The Trust for Public Lands
Keith Fletcher, Wells Conservation Commission
Jerry Bley, Consultant to the Bureau of Parks & Lands
Leon Bucher, Dept. Inland Fisheries & Wildlife
Ken Elowe, Dept. Inland Fisheries & Wildlife
Cindy Smith, Dept. of Marine Resources
David Rodrigues, Dept. of Conservation

• Minutes of the Meeting

A motion was made by Carole Dyer and seconded by Leon Gorman and Warren Balgooyen to accept the November 22, 2005 Minutes of the Meeting. Vote was unanimous.

PROJECT VOTES

Conservation & Recreation Project

- **Wells Conservation Lands** – McLeatchy-Stevens parcel (16.09 ± acres in fee to the Town of Wells under a PA with DOC)

- Public Notice

Published in the Kennebec Journal and Portland Press Herald on 1-6-2006.

- Appraisal Review Committee Recommendations

The ARC recommended accepting an appraisal value of \$14,000 for this parcel and further recommends LMF funding of \$14,000 (not including all other costs). [Note: Match for this acquisition is being provided by a combination of bargain sale and matching land.]

- Public Comments

Keith Fletcher stated that the Town of Wells has been acquiring lands for conservation with the idea of establishing three large units and that this parcel will help protect the Great Heath. This is a great project with a fantastic site and he thanked the Board of their support and invited folks to come see the parcel for themselves.

- Vote

A motion was made by Commissioner Martin and seconded by Carole Dyer to support acquisition of this parcel. Vote was unanimous.

Water Access Project

- **Attean Pond**

The Dept. of Conservation is seeking an approval from the Board to acquire 2 lots on Attean Pond; one on the north shore and one on the south shore that remain outside of public ownership and vulnerable to development. The northern lot encompasses a sand beach at the base of Sally Mountain and the southern lot is located on a pine bluff overlooking the pond and a multitude of islands. The lot on the north shore will alleviate existing use conflicts at the water access trailhead for Sally Mountain and the lot on the south shore is totally wild and in need of protection from development.

The current owners have agreed to sell the lots to the State at a price which is below their appraised value. If the State is unable to secure the necessary funding over the coming months, the owners will be forced to sell one or both of the lots for development.

- Vote

A motion was made by Carole Dyer and seconded by Warren Balgooyen to allocate funding for 2 lots (\$210,000 Water Access) contingent upon an appraisal. Vote was unanimous.

5 % Access Improvement Requests

- **Bangor & Aroostook Rail Trail** (Bar Harbor to Presque Island, Patten to Sherman, and Mapleton to Washburn)

The Maine Department of Conservation is requesting a grant in the amount of \$35,000 for access improvements of trails to include:

- ↳ Gating and other barriers to limit vehicle access as there is a considerable amount of unauthorized truck and automobile access occurring on the trails
- ↳ Improvements to numerous trestles and bridges (decking, railings and fencing)
- ↳ Ditching and culvert installation
- ↳ Trail surface improvements
- ↳ Installation of control and directional signage

- Vote

A motion was made by Carole Dyer and seconded by Leon Gorman to approve access improvement funds in the amount of \$35,000. Vote was unanimous.

- ↳ **Marshall Island – Phase I & II combined**

The Maine Coast Heritage Trust is requesting a grant in the amount of \$70,000 to support the creation of a trail network system on Marshall Island. MCHT plans on creating low-impact, pedestrian trails that will enable visitors to experience more of this spectacular island while dispersing visitors to minimize the impacts on any one area to protect the wild nature of the island. The work will be done over two seasons.

- Vote

A motion was made by Carole Dyer and seconded by Leon Gorman to approve access improvement funds in the amount of \$70,000. Vote was unanimous.

Other Business

- **Varnum Farm**

Action on a request to increase allocation was postponed until the next Board meeting.

- **Boston Hills**

The project has been withdrawn.

- **Working Waterfronts**

A brief overview was given by staff members. Acquisitions can include conservation easements, access easements, development rights, full title or other permanent interests in the land. Grants will include a provision that the property may not be used, altered or developed in a manner that precludes its use by commercial fisheries businesses. In addition, the State will retain a permanent right of first refusal on the property.

Board members reviewed a 'draft' Table of Working Waterfront Selection Criteria aimed at protecting waterfront land with facilities, capacity, and services needed to support commercial fisheries businesses as developed by the Department of Marine Resources (DMR) in cooperation with the State Planning Office and the Maine Department of Transportation. The criteria discussed will be more fully developed with a Review Panel appointed by the Commissioner of DMR before being incorporated into an application.

A Review Panel will meet in early February to refine the criteria. Requests for Proposals should be going out in March and the Board should hopefully see proposals in the Fall.

The Board reviewed and commented on the selection criteria for working waterfront projects expressed in the LMF bond language. No action was taken.

- **Proposed improvements to the Access Improvement Criteria**

Because of questions raised last year regarding the criteria for Access Improvement Grants, it was suggested that more explicit guidance be drafted. While the intent is to retain a simple and flexible format, the following considerations have been proposed. They include:

- Please describe how is the proposed project consistent with the recreation, public access and conservation objectives of the LMF acquisition grant (as described in the original or amended LMF application)?

- What are the management objectives of the applicant for the conserved lands in question? How will this grant support those objectives? If your organization has adopted a management plan for the conserved land please include relevant portion of the plan.
- How will the proposed project improve accessibility of the conserved lands? [Note: access improvements must be consistent with the management objects. For example: trail construction; gates to control access by inappropriate vehicles on a snowmobile trail; small parking lots at trailheads; boat launch ramps at water access site]
- What public uses will be supported and/or enhanced by the proposed project?

- Vote

A motion was made by Leon Gorman and seconded by Commissioner Martin to adopt the above Evaluation Criteria for 5% Access Improvement Grants. Vote was unanimous.

- **Project Status Report** (*Rounds 1 thru 4 \$50 million bond projects*)

Conservation & Recreation Projects

Amherst Mountain (R4)	moving forward
Back River Lands (R4).....	withdrawn
Boston Hills (R2)	withdrawn
Bradbury-Pineland (R1).....	moving forward
Caribou Bog-Penjajawoc (R4)	moving forward
Crooked Brook Flowage (R3).....	withdrawn
Great Moose/Wild Goose (R4)	limited progress
Hancock Lands –Phase I (R2).....	moving forward
Hancock Lands-Phase II (R4)	moving forward
Katahdin Forest Project (R3)	moving forward
Katahdin Iron Works (R4)	moving forward
Machias River-Phase II (R4).....	moving forward
Quarry Woods & Wetlands (R4).....	moving forward
RiverLink-Phase I (R3).....	moving forward
RiverLink-Phase II (R4).....	moving forward
Sabbathday Lake-Conservation (R4)	moving forward
Sebago Headwaters Preserve (R2)	moving forward
Varnum Farm-Conservation (R4)	moving forward
Wells Conservation Lands (R4)	moving forward

Public Access to Maine Waters

Billings Pond.....limited progress
Coos Canyon.....moving forward
Cupsuptic Lake Park.....moving forward
Pleasant River Williamsburglimited progress

Farmlands

Brae Maple Farm **withdrawn**
Kennebec & Waldo County Landscapesmoving forward
Sabbathday Lake-Agriculturemoving forward
Sand Hill Farm..... moving forward
Varnum Farm-Agriculturemoving forward

• **New Proposals**

With passage of the new land bond, a call for proposals was issued in December 2005 with an application deadline of February 3, 2006. A total of 33 new proposals were received; 10 Farm Projects and 23 Conservation & Recreation Projects with projects totaling over \$70 million in value and requesting \$22.6 million of LMF support.

• **Other Business**

It was suggested that the July LMF Board meeting be scheduled outside of Augusta. Board members concurred.

• **Adjourn**

Meeting adjourned at 2:30 p.m.